

**Graduation Matters Kalispell**  
**Critical Questions for Community/Board Work Session**

1. High School dropouts earn about \$9200 less per year than a high school graduate and about \$1,000,000.00 less in life time earnings than individuals with a college degree. So graduation does matter! What are some ways that you see **the businesses and community members** being able to assist with the initiative of helping all students to stay in school and graduate successfully?
2. High School dropouts earn about \$9200 less per year than high school graduates and about \$1,000,000.00 less in life time earnings than those with a college degree. So graduation does matter! What are some ways that you see **parents** being able to assist with the initiative of helping their children to stay in school and graduate successfully?
3. Schools provide a variety of interventions and programs to help students be successful academically and an array of activities to help students connect. What do you see that schools could do differently, or in addition to, what is already happening that would help us have a more positive impact on increasing the numbers of students who successfully graduate on time?
4. The new national academic expectations, known as the National Common Core standards will almost certainly require a third year of high school mathematics. How can schools successfully implement additional and higher expectations in the area of Math while increasing the numbers of students that graduate?
5. Several of our communities have engaged in activities to help students be better “future planners” beyond high school. These actions may include Career Field experiences, College for a Day, work experiences or a variety of other formats. What would you suggest we do in our schools so that students view their school experience as being more relevant to their future plans?
6. The National Common Core standards are working to assure that all kids are College and Career Ready. What skills do you value that you think indicates if a student is college and career ready when they transition from our k-12 systems?